

# ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

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**CASE NUMBER:** C14H-2013-0008

**HLC DATE:**

October 28, 2013

**PC DATE:**

November 12, 2013

**APPLICANT:** Curtis and Nina Batts, owners; City of Austin.

**HISTORIC NAME:** Ethel Pearl's Beauty Shop

**WATERSHED:** Waller Creek

**ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE:** 1504 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street

**ZONING FROM:** SF-3-NP to SF-3-H-NP

**SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from single family residence, neighborhood plan (SF-3-NP) combining district to single family residence – Historic Landmark – neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-NP) combining district zoning.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:**

The house has been a center of African-American life in East Austin – until the early 1950s, it was exclusively a residence, but when the house was purchased by Curtis and Ethel Pearl Batts in 1950, it became her beauty salon, and a gathering place for African-American women in the days of segregation in Austin.

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:** Recommended the proposed zoning change from SF-3-NP to SF-3-H-NP. Vote: 6-0 (Galindo absent).

**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:**

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The house is not listed in any City survey.

C14H-2013-0008

1504 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street

Project: Ethel's Beauty Salon

SF-3-NP to SF-3-H-NP

October 9, 2013 – Kathleen Fox, Comprehensive Planning

This zoning case is located on the northeast corner of Angelina Street and E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street and contains a small one story single family house situated on a .06 acre parcel. This property is located within the boundaries of the Central East Austin Neighborhood Plan area. Surrounding land uses includes single family houses to the north, east and west and the Texas State Cemetery to the south. The request is for historic preservation zoning.

**Central East Austin Neighborhood Plan (CEANP)**

The CEANP Future Land Use Map designates this property as residential. The following Goals and Priorities are highly supportive of historic preservation zoning in the CEANP:

**Goal 1** - Preserve, restore, and recognize historic resources and other unique neighborhood features. (pg. 7)

**Goal 7** - Respect the historic, ethnic and cultural character of the neighborhoods of Central East Austin (pg. 4)

Top Ten CEANP Planning Priority

**Priority 6.** Recommend that eligible historic districts identified in the "Historic Resources Survey of East Austin" report be established as local historic districts per the City's proposed local districts ordinance. (p 5)

**Imagine Austin (IACP)**

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Austin's historic assets include neighborhoods, buildings, and sites reflecting Austin's cultural, ethnic, social, economic, political, and architectural history, many of which lack formal historic designation. Designated historic resources include National Register properties and districts, Texas Historic Landmarks, Austin's Historic Landmark designation, and Local Historic Districts. In addition, Austin has many cultural resources lacking formal historic designation—public art, cultural centers, museums, institutions, buildings, landscapes, and iconic businesses and buildings. Austin is also home to a number of museums and research libraries (p 116). The following IACP policies support historic preservation:

- **LUT P38.** Preserve and interpret historic resources (those objects, buildings, structures, sites, places, or districts with historic, cultural, or aesthetic significance) in Austin for residents and visitors.
- **LUT P41.** Protect historic buildings, structures, sites, places, and districts in neighborhoods throughout the City.
- **LUT P42.** Retain the character of National Register and local Historic Districts and ensure that development and redevelopment is compatible with historic resources and character.
- **C P12.** Construct, sustain, and grow Austin's multicultural and artistic heritage from African American, Hispanic, Asian, and other ethnic and culturally-specific groups as the city develops and grows.

Based on the CEANP Goals that support protecting historic areas in the planning area, and the Imagine Austin policies above that support protecting and preserving historic neighborhoods, staff believes that this proposed historic zoning request is supported by the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.

**CITY COUNCIL DATE:**

**ACTION:**

**ORDINANCE READINGS:** 1<sup>ST</sup> 2<sup>ND</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup>

**ORDINANCE NUMBER:**

**CASE MANAGER:** Steve Sadowsky

**PHONE:** 974-6454

**NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION:** Organization of Central East Austin Neighborhoods.

**BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

**Architecture:**

One-story, rectangular-plan, hipped-roof, frame dwelling with a now-enclosed partial-width independent porch; single and paired 1:1 fenestration.

**Historical Associations:**

Research indicates conflicting dates for the construction of the house – the 1910-11 city directory shows it to be the home of Samuel Mackey, a porter at the old Sutor Hotel saloon in the 300 block of Congress Avenue, but deed records indicate that Samuel Mackey executed a mechanic's lien to the Nalle Lumber Company in 1912 for the construction of the house – but it is clear that the house was built some time between 1910 and 1912. Samuel Mackey had purchased the property in 1907, so it may be that he lived in an earlier house before the construction of this house.

Mackey was born in Texas, and worked as a porter, bootblack, and shoeshine man during his life. After his wife, Ruth, died in 1924, Samuel Mackey continued to live here until around 1931, when he moved to a smaller house on E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. He died in 1963. Louis Johnson, who was the yardman, and later chauffeur for Commodore E.H. Perry and his family, lived here from around 1931 to around 1940. Samuel Mackey sold the house to Curtis and Ethel Pearl Batts in 1950. Curtis Batts had been a truck driver for Sears before going into the U.S. Army and marrying Ethel Pearl Batts, formerly of Bastrop, Texas. He later became a truck driver for H.M. Oetting Furniture, which was located at 13<sup>th</sup> and Lavaca Streets and was noted for its line of fine furnishings. He married Ethel Pearl Eastland of Bastrop in 1943, while he was still in the Army. Ethel worked as a maid during those years, but began working in beauty salons, both as a shampoo girl in white salons as well as in African-American salons, such as Edmondson's at 11<sup>th</sup> and Chicon Streets, and the Julia Ann Beauty Salon on E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street. By 1954, she had opened Ethel Pearl's Beauty Salon in this house, and went to Prairie

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View A&M University for cosmetology classes, receiving her certification as a licensed beautician from the Crescent School of Beauty of Austin in 1957, the same year that her husband died of cancer. Ethel Pearl's Beauty Salon was one of several African-American beauty shops that opened in East Austin, as African-American women were denied service in shops that catered exclusively to whites. Ethel Pearl's shop typified the response of the city's African-American community to segregated business practices, where they were not allowed in to white service businesses throughout the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Typical of the African-American businesses in Austin, Ethel Pearl's Beauty Salon became something of a community center and gathering place for African-American women, and further represented the growth of the segregated African-American economy in Austin, where women were now able to afford luxuries such as beauty services and hairdressing. Ethel Pearl Batts always believed in presenting herself elegantly, and was known to sport blonde hair in the latest fashion. She also believed that African-American women should have the benefit of hair and beauty services so that they could present themselves well and get ahead in their personal, social, and business lives, even at a time when white Austin businesses routinely discriminated against African-American customers and clients.

Establishing a legitimate beauty salon in the African-American community also meant that operators such as Ethel Pearl Batts were subject to increased scrutiny and regulations by the authorities. Mrs. Batts constructed the necessary improvements in her home to house the beauty salon in accordance with city and state regulations to maintain her business license. She was also a crusader for civil rights and equal treatment for African-Americans in the crucial years of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Family members recall that Mrs. Batts would stage her own sit-ins at Woolworth's lunch counter in downtown Austin, when the store refused to serve African-American customers. Ethel Pearl Batts remembered all too well the hurtful discrimination she had been subjected to as a girl in Bastrop, and fought in her own way to provide beauty services for her African-American clientele, including many Huston-Tillotson College students, so that they would feel proud of themselves and work to right the civil wrongs so ingrained in Southern society at that time.

**PARCEL NO.:** 0206090207

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** The east 47 feet of Lot 5 and the east 47 feet of the south 10 feet of Lot 6, Outlot 61, Division B.

**ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT:** \$2,054 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$575; \$1,032 (income-producing); city portion: \$287.

**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$166,786

**PRESENT USE:** Residence

**CONDITION:** Excellent

**PRESENT OWNERS:** Curtis and Nina Batts

**DATE BUILT:** ca. 1910

**ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:** A rear addition was made to the house in 1962; vinyl siding and solar screens were applied to the house in 2007.

**ORIGINAL OWNER(S):** Samuel and Ruth Mackey (1907)

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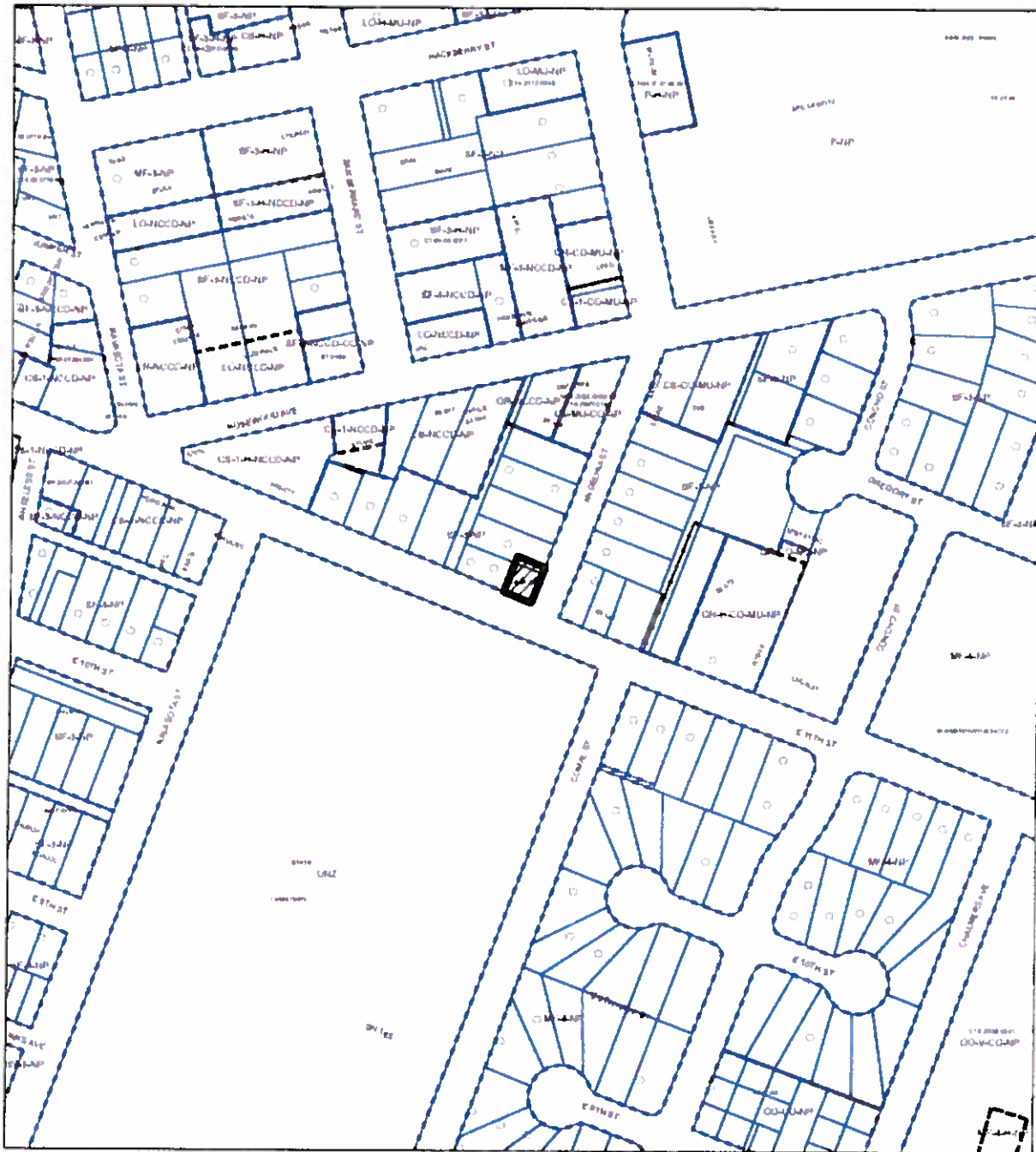
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OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None.

LOCATION MAP

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C14H-2013-0008



1" = 200'

- SUBJECT TRACT
- PENDING CASE
- ZONING BOUNDARY

### HISTORIC ZONING

ZONING CASE#: C14H-2013-0008

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



1504 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
ca. 1910

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**OCCUPANCY HISTORY**  
**1504 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street**

City Directory Research, Austin History Center

- 1992 Ethel P. Batts, owner  
Child care, State of Texas
- 1985-86 Ethel P. Batts, owner  
No occupation listed
- 1981 Ethel P. Batts, owner  
Operator, Anderson Lane Beauty Salon (Elmo Sledge, proprietor), 1817 W.  
Anderson Lane.
- 1977 Ethel P. Batts, owner  
Proprietor, Ethel Pearl Beauty Salon (at the house)
- 1973 Ethel P. Batts, owner  
Proprietor, Ethel Pearl Beauty Salon (at the house)
- 1968 Ethel P. Batts, owner  
Proprietor, Ethel Pearl Beauty Salon (at the house)
- 1962 Ethel P. Batts, owner  
Proprietor, Ethel Pearl Beauty Salon (at the house)
- 1959 C. Curtis and Ethel P. Batts, owners  
C. Curtis: Laborer  
Ethel: Proprietor, Ethel Pearl Beauty Salon (at the house)
- 1955 C. Curtis and Ethel P. Batts, owners  
C. Curtis: Truck driver, H.M. Oetting Furniture Company, 13<sup>th</sup> and Lavaca  
Streets.  
Ethel: Proprietor, Ethel Pearl Beauty Salon (at the house).
- 1952 Matthew and Gertrude Curry, renters  
Laborer  
NOTE: Curtis and Ethel Batts are listed at 1606 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street; he was a driver for  
H.M. Oetting Furniture Company (13<sup>th</sup> and Lavaca Streets); she was an operator  
at the Julia Ann Beauty Shop (Julia A. Earls, proprietor), 1620 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1949 Thomas Price, renter  
Laborer, Southern Union Gas Company, 422 Congress Avenue.  
NOTE: Curtis and Ethel Batts are listed at 1606 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street; he was a laborer;  
she had no occupation listed.
- 1947 James D. and Guybret Alexander, renters  
Employed by the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, 601 W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street.  
NOTE: Curtis and Ethel Batts are listed at 1606 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street; he was a helper at  
Oetting Furniture, 13<sup>th</sup> and Lavaca Streets; she was an operator at Edmondson's  
Beauty Parlor (Josephine Edmondson, proprietor), 1100 Chicon Street.
- 1944-45 Abbie J. McGarritty, owner  
Widow, Benjamin McGarritty  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: Curtis and Ethel Batts are listed at 1606 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street; he was in the U.S.  
Army; she had no occupation listed.

1941

Kelly and Hazel Robinson, renters  
Laborer

NOTE: Curtis and Ethel Batts are not listed in the directory.

1939

Louis Johnson, owner  
No occupation listed

NOTE: The address is listed as 1304 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

NOTE: Curtis Batts (Ethel is not listed) was a warehouseman for Sears, who lived in the rear of 1505 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

1937

Louis Johnson, owner  
No occupation listed

NOTE: The address is listed as 1304 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

1935

Louis Johnson, owner  
Chauffeur

NOTE: The address is listed at 1304 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

1932-33

Louis Johnson, owner  
No occupation listed

NOTE: The address is listed as 1304 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

NOTE: Samuel Mackey is listed at 1502 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, which was listed as being between Angelina and Comal Streets, but which does not appear on the 1935 Sanborn map.

1930-31

Samuel Mackey (colored), owner  
No occupation listed

NOTE: The address is listed as 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

1929

Samuel Mackey (colored), owner  
Porter

NOTE: The address is listed as 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

1927

Myer and Julia Nobles (colored), renters  
Porter

NOTE: The address is listed as 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

1924

Samuel and Ruth Mackey (colored), owners  
No occupation listed

NOTE: The address is listed as 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

1922

Samuel and Ruth Mackey (colored), owners  
No occupation listed

NOTE: The address is listed as 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

1920

Samuel and Ruth Mackey (colored), owners  
Laborer

NOTE: The address is listed as 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

1918

Samuel and Ruth Mackey (colored), owners  
Shoe shine

NOTE: The address is listed as 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

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Samuel Mackey (colored)  
Shoe shiner, 304 Congress Avenue.

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NOTE: The address is listed as 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

1914 Samuel Mackey (colored)  
Porter, William Frank Howard, proprietor, Austin Branch, Lone Star Brewing Company, 206-08 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street; and proprietor of a saloon, 304 Congress Avenue.

NOTE: The address is listed as 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

1912-13 Samuel Mackey (colored)  
Porter  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

1910-11 Samuel Mackey (colored)  
Porter  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

1909-10 No houses are listed between San Bernard and Angelina Streets on E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.  
NOTE: Samuel Mackey is listed as a porter at the Sutor Hotel, 304-06 Congress Avenue; he lived at 916 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

##### **Samuel and Ruth Mackey (ca. 1910 – ca. 1931)**

Samuel Mackey appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as the owner of the house at 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, which was worth \$1,000. He was a 50-year old Texas-born widower who worked as a hotel porter. With him lived Myer Nobles, a 35-year old porter at the State Capitol, and his wife, Julia, 30, a maid for a private family. The 1920 U.S. Census shows Sam and Ruth Mackey as the owners of the house at 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street; he was a porter. Ruth Mackey, who was 35 at the time, had been born in Illinois, and was a laundress for a private family. They had two children: Sam, Jr., and Pearl. Next door to them at 1304 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, lived Louis Johnson, a chauffeur for E.H. Perry.

The 1910 U.S. Census shows Samuel and Ruth Mackey at 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. He was a porter in a saloon.

**SAMUEL MACKEY**  
Funeral services for Samuel Mackey will be held Saturday at 3:30 p.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Rev. Robert L. Rowe will officiate. Burial will be in Plummers Cemetery under direction of King-Tears Mortuary.  
Mackey is survived by a son, Samuel Mackey Jr., of East St. Louis, Ill.; two sisters, Miss Lordie Mackey and Miss Martha Mackey of Austin, and brother, Albert Mackey of Austin.

Funeral notice for Samuel Mackey

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**Louis Johnson (ca. 1931 – ca. 1940)**

Louis Johnson is listed in the 1930 U.S. Census as living in the home of his brother-in-law, Washington Barrow, at 1304 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, which was likely located just to the west of the house later owned and occupied by Curtis and Ethel Batts. Louis Johnson was then 35, had been born in Texas, and was a chauffeur for a private family. City directory records show that Louis Johnson was the chauffeur for E.H. Perry, a prominent cotton merchant, and had been working for Perry since at least 1920, when the Perry family still lived at 1002 Lavaca Street. The 1930-31 city directory shows Louis Johnson living with Washington Barrow, who had no occupation listed in the directory. The 1930 census report shows Washington Barrow to have been a 47-year old Texas-born general laborer. His wife, Eva, 27, was a laundress for a private family.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Louis and Georgia Johnson at 1304 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, which would have been just to the west of the house later owned and occupied by Curtis and Ethel Batts, as it historically bore an address of 1306 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Louis Johnson was a chauffeur for a private family; Georgia Johnson had no occupation listed.

**LOUIS JOHNSON**

Funeral for Louis Johnson will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Metropolitan AME Church with Rev. X. L. Williams officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery by Fuller-Sheffield Funeral Service, Inc.

Survivors include two nephews, Louis M. Barrow, Austin, and Louis Johnson, Fresno, Calif.; a step-sister, Mrs. Olevia Dennie of Chicago, Ill.

Funeral notice for Louis Johnson  
Austin American, March 14, 1967

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### **The Biography of Ethel Pearl Batts**

Ethel Pearl Batts was born to Mr. Joe Eastland and Amanda McClain Eastland on July 18, 1914. Ethel Pearl was a fraternal twin. Her place of birth was on the east side of Bastrop, Texas behind highway 95. Her dad was a cook at one of the restaurants in the downtown area of Bastrop, Texas. Her mother was a homemaker. Ethel was born in the farm like environment of which she learned many domesticated skills. One of the most prevalent jobs for African American women during this era was domestic servants (maids). Ethel was a young lady with great beauty and sought to explore the avenues of discovering her aspirations. Bastrop, Texas was known for its mistreatment of African Americans during this time as was many Texas towns. Ethel would tell stories of how the White men would come and rustle her father's cattle and take them away, while her father would stand there with no ability to defend his right or his property. Ethel did not want to be the person that settled for this type of ill-treatment; she wanted a better life for herself and her children.

Ethel did complete her education in the Bastrop Schools for African Americans during this time. She became a domestic worker in the Austin area as she tried to pursue her dreams in the big city. She spoke of ill-treatment by her employers as a young lady working as a maid. She was a woman of great strength and courage of which she would be tested by many of life's challenges. She met and married Curtis C. Batts on January 8, 1943. To this union was born three children; Gracie Mae Batts, Curtis C. Batts Jr, and Andrew Clark Batts. Her husband Curtis Batts was in the armed forces at the time of their matrimony. During their earlier years of marriage she would continue her work as a maid. Curtis later earned his honorable discharge from the armed forces on December 7, 1945. Curtis went on to pursue employment as a truck driver with H.M. Oetting. During this time Curtis and Ethel resided at; 1606 East 4<sup>th</sup> St. Austin, Texas (Travis County).

Curtis and Ethel started their family with the birth of Gracie Mae Batts (August 31, 1948), Curtis C. Batts Jr. (May 05, 1949) and Andrew Clark Batts (June 20, 1950). She was a diligent worker in the home and a maid during the earlier years of her marriage.

On May 29, 1950, Curtis and Ethel purchased the property at '1504 East 11<sup>th</sup> St. The residence was in need of repairs during this time, so Curtis and Ethel would do minimal repairs while still residing at 1606 East 4<sup>th</sup> St.. After completing some of the major repairs to the residence, Curtis and Ethel moved into their homestead. There would be ongoing alterations and renovations done to the residence as they could afford.

Ethel had a strength that was immeasurable during this time of her life; marrying, giving birth to three children within three years and purchasing a home. She had a

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determination that her siblings stood in awe and her husband was just trying to keep the uncharted pace that had been set before him.

After moving into their new residence, Ethel decided that she would continue her domestic work and go to Prairie View A&M University for Cosmetology courses on weekends to pursue her dream of becoming a beautician. As a new wife and mother of three, pursuing her dream of becoming a beautician put every ounce of her being to the ultimate test.

As she pressed through these difficult times of pioneering a path that was un-chartered by African American women, she experienced devastating losses. During these transitional years Ethel became the care-taker of father (Joe Eastland) up until his death in February of 1955. Ethel's daughter Gracie Mae died in the year of 1957. On December 18, 1957 the love of her life (Curtis) died of carcinoma.

Ethel was stricken with grief, but in the year of 1957 she completed the class requirements to receive her certification as a licensed beautician from The Crescent School of Beauty in Austin, Texas. During this era of extreme prejudices and segregation Ethel worked as a *shampoo girl* in the white beauty shops. She did not have the means to own and operate her own shop. However there was an under current of ambition and future plans of having her own shop.

Some of the newly graduated African American beauticians within the area would work at the Tip-Top Beauty Shop on East 6<sup>th</sup> St. as *shampoo girls*. The Crescent School of Beauty opened for business in 1945 at which time there would be African American women that would complete the requirements as cosmetologist. This profession in the African American community was greatly admired and respected by all. This profession would birth a class of women dedicated to the community of black women in exploring their beauty.

We know that during this time it was difficult for African Americans to obtain business loans. So the state of Texas would allow beauticians to set up beauty shops within their own homes. However there were restrictions on how this in-home beauty shop would be constructed. There would have to be a dividing wall between the beauty shop and the living residence. There would also have to be a separate entrance door to the beauty shop. Some of the beautician would add a separate building on the property. So the African American beauticians started to construct in-home beauty shops and add on buildings to their property. Some of the in-home beauty shops during this time were: The Two Sister Beauty Salon on the corner of East 11th St. and Chicon, Eula Williams Beauty Salon at 3004 E. 18<sup>th</sup> St. and Ethel Pearls Beauty Salon at 1504 E. 11<sup>th</sup> St. There were others that were housed in homes; Ms. Freeman's Beauty Salon and Minnie's Beauty Salon. All of which were located on the east side of Austin. Then there were those beauticians that could not afford home renovations to their house, so they boot-legged in their homes in the kitchen area. They would use the cooking stoves for heating their hot-irons and curling rods. The Texas Association of Cosmetology was very strict on inspecting the African American in-home Beauty Shops and would come into the shops

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un-announced to make sure that the operation was in compliance of all rules and regulations. At the end of the inspection the shops would be graded on the appearance and sanitation of all equipment. Also in compliance with the laws of the Cosmetology Association the beautician's license had to be renewed yearly.

The reputation of this profession was honorable to the village of East Austinites and during these times of new and evolving hair do's beauticians could have a very lucrative income. As a beautician it was very important that they continue in attending educational seminars and training on new techniques in hair-do's and advancing products on the market. The Prairie View Annual Trade Show would host these events every year. Ethel was very intentional on attending this trade show every year. Mrs. Batts would always attend the Ebony Fashion Shows at the Palmer Auditorium to remain current on the fashions of that time. As a woman of great beauty she would subscribe to beauty magazines on all types of hair. Her signature style was blonde. She always sported a blonde hair-do. It is believed that she took on styles that were years ahead of her time. She loved versatility in the different types of hair-do's for people of all races. She did not restrict herself to the African American race because during her tenure as a beautician she would often be called to fill in at Parkers Beauty Salon & Store on Anderson lane (Austin, Texas).

The climate of the in-home beauty shops was very interesting in the 1950's. The beauticians were stylist, beauty advisors, home-makers, cooks, marriage and family counselors, community activist, disciplinarians, church workers and socialites. When you entered the beauty shop establishments you would need to prepare yourself for many different orders of the day. During this era, times were hard for many of the patrons so they would do whatever they could for the beautician to discount their services. They would trade meat, cleaners' services and other services or products that were available to them. Some of the patrons may "shell peas" while waiting for their appointment time. Some of them may bring their wares for sell or bargain. The entertainment in the beauty shop was the talk of community affairs, Soap operas on the radio and concerns of the African American plight. This was a village.

The black beauticians were not always willing and trained to style white people's hair, so they reserve themselves to being "*shampoo girls*" in the white salons. There was an undercurrent of classes in the African American Community. The light skinned blacks were looked upon more favorably than the darker-skinned blacks. There were also terms used to classify the hair texture; good hair and kinky hair. The light skinned blacks mostly had good hair, whereas the darker skinned blacks would have a more course and kinky texture of hair. The beautician would have to diagnose the type of hair and use special products to press (hot-iron), hot-curl, hot wave or perm the hair. Some of the beauticians would even make there own hair grease and sell it to there patrons. We know that Madam C.J. Walker was one of the well known entrepreneurs in black hair products during the 1900's. There were many beauticians during this time that would experiment in making there own products. The African American hair plight was very challenging because we did not like the natural texture of our hair. The African Americans were

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constantly challenged with hair styles and products that would make them look sociably acceptable.

The beauticians were in great demand in the East Austin area. The 1900's was an evolution period for the African Americans with segregation and integration at the helm of political upheaval. This was also an era of African American Socialites evolving. There were all types of celebrations in the East Austin area. The church growth was increasing. There were African American Pageants being held at Rosewood. The Huston-Tillotson College (African American College) was housed in East Austin and there were on-going celebrations and functions. During the mid-to late 1950's various clubs and organizations were being birth for African Americans as we embraced the liberation to be and exist freely in the United States of America. During this time and era the entrepreneurship of beauticians experienced a phenomenal growth in their business. There was not very much advertising going on. The clientele would increase simply by word of mouth.

Mrs. Batts was well known by the young girls attending the Huston-Tillotson College and they would frequent her beauty salon. The in-home salons could start their work hours at 6:00am up to 12:00am. These hours of operation could vary depending on the events of the week or holidays.

In the 1950's a wash/hot-press and curl could cost \$3.00. In earlier years the same service could cost as little as \$1.50. You must realize that they did not have much overhead especially if the shop was in their home. This was a very lucrative business and considering the benefits of this profession of working at home and caring for your own children.

This was a gold mine for Mrs. Batts and so many others that shared her passion. It was a time and place that should go down in history of Black Beauticians surviving the American plight with a phenomenal success. African American Beauticians did not go out business because they tapped in on a service that would always be needed and respected.

***May the legacy of the African American Beauticians live on for the services and beauty they provided to all.***